TAP - Trinity Access Programmes

“We need the talent of all our people to unfold and develop; we need a highly educated workforce and real opportunities for them to grow professionally. We need people to be engaged in civic society, to vote, to care, to engage with the big issues of our time and to know they can meet those challenges and make change happen. This cannot happen unless we cultivate and develop people from all social backgrounds and create the pathways for them to be fully engaged in our society, economy, in our world.

TAP is deeply indebted to the many supporters who have helped us to make such a difference for so many over the years.

Thank you for your invaluable support.”

Cliona Hannon, Director, Trinity Access Programmes

The Trinity Access Programmes (TAP) are a key part of Trinity’s social mission. TAP aims to increase participation in education by students from non-traditional backgrounds, to address inequality in educational access and outcomes and to create a university campus that mirrors the diverse composition of Irish society.

Since 1993 when TAP was established, almost 800 students have graduated from Trinity, with 900 students currently enrolled. These individuals make a real impact in their schools, communities and families as role models. They are also making a positive contribution to diversifying the student body in Trinity, as well as the graduate labour market in Ireland. These successes will continue to provide social and economic returns for generations to come.
The TAP Pathways to Law Programme

Research within an Irish and UK context has highlighted that access to the established graduate professions continues to be dominated by students from higher socio-economic groups, with little social mobility, particularly in the areas of Law and Medicine.

The TAP Pathways to Law initiative has been developed in partnership with the School of Law in Trinity to inspire students from under-represented groups who are interested in the law and to give them the confidence, knowledge and tools to maximize their potential.

The programme targets students from senior-cycle in school through to university level and seeks to enhance their interest in the theoretical as well as practical application of the study of law, through a range of targeted interventions delivered in collaboration with programme partners.

Pathways to Law provides students with a range of high quality supports, volunteering opportunities and experience of professional practice. Components include: University Sessions, Summer Schools, Court Visits, Work Shadowing, Career Coaching & Mentoring and Financial Support.

Pathways Highlights

Since its establishment in 2010 the Pathways to Law programme has gone from strength to strength:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Achievements</th>
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<tr>
<td>Judges giving their time and expertise</td>
<td>5 judges giving their time and expertise to support aspiring barristers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Law students enabled to engage</td>
<td>48 undergraduate law students have been enabled to engage with major legal</td>
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<td>with major legal firms</td>
<td>firms</td>
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<td>Completion rate of TAP students on Law</td>
<td>93% completion rate of TAP students on Law courses in TCD</td>
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<tr>
<td>courses in TCD</td>
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<td>Professional training, legal &amp; semi-state</td>
<td>11 professional training, legal &amp; semi-state bodies, NGOS and student</td>
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<td>bodies, NGOS and student societies engaged</td>
<td>engaged</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solicitors &amp; Barristers</td>
<td>57 solicitors &amp; 36 barristers have given their time for sessions and</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shadowing</td>
<td>shadowing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal professionals</td>
<td>150 legal professionals have given their time to engage in activities</td>
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<td>Benefited to date from the programme</td>
<td>255 students have benefitted to date from the programme</td>
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<td>Pathways to Law second level students</td>
<td>80% of Pathways to Law second level students have continued on to third</td>
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<tr>
<td>continued on to third level study</td>
<td>level study</td>
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<td>Second level students</td>
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<td>Continued on to third level study</td>
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Supporting Pathways to Law

The practical and financial support of law firms, individuals and professional bodies in the legal field is critical to the success of Pathways to Law.

A number of opportunities exist to become involved in the programme – some suited to companies and others to individuals, and we are delighted to discuss potential areas of participation with interested parties.

The TAP Pathways Partners

TAP is seeking a range of multi-annual corporate partners for the Pathways programme, who will each make a significant, four year investment of €15,000 per annum (total €60,000). We are committed to tailoring a connection with each partner firm so that it makes a difference to their professional environment as well as creating life-changing opportunities for TAP students.

Participating firms are invited to join the Pathways Advisory Group. They will have the opportunity to interact with students, mentors and the wider Trinity College community, as well as to shape the continued expansion and further development of the Pathways to Law programme.

We are delighted to acknowledge the valuable support of Pathways Partners in all activities, publications and publicity associated with the programme.

Current Pathways Partners are A&L Goodbody, Arthur Cox, Matheson and William Fry.

A number of individual barristers, judges and other legal practitioners also contribute to the programme. TAP gratefully acknowledges the support of the Law Society, the Bar Council and FLAC.

Supporting Students

Financial support for students is a core component of the Pathways to Law programme. Privately funded TAP scholarships provide vital assistance to these students, helping them to overcome the financial pressures they face and to fulfil their educational goals.

“My experience in Pathways to Law gave me the confidence to be able to say I want to study law as a future career.”

Pathways to Law programme participant

For more information on how you can get involved with the Pathways to Law programme please contact:

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